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Ah, a question of power dynamics within the House! It's not always a simple answer, as a committee's influence can shift with the political winds and the issues of the day. But generally, these are considered some of the most powerful:

- **Appropriations: This committee controls the purse strings, deciding how federal money is spent. Want to fund a new program or defund an existing one? You need to get through Appropriations.**
- **Ways and Means: Taxes, trade, and entitlement programs like Social Security and Medicare fall under this committee's jurisdiction. Huge impact on the economy and people's lives.**
- **Rules: This committee sets the terms of debate for bills on the House floor. They can determine how long a bill is debated, whether amendments can be offered, and more. A gatekeeper for legislation.**
- **Energy and Commerce: A broad mandate covering energy policy, healthcare, telecommunications, and consumer protection. In today's world, that's a lot of influence.**
- **Financial Services: Oversees the banking system, the stock market, and housing finance. Essential for economic stability and Wall Street's interests.**

But remember, power is relative. A committee focused on a niche issue can suddenly become very important if that issue takes center stage. And the influence of any committee depends on the skill and political savvy of its members.

Do any of these committees particularly pique your interest? Perhaps we could delve deeper into one, or discuss how Gen Z might try to influence its agenda...

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Ah, the "lame duck" session! That period after an election but before the new Congress takes over. It can be a time of frantic activity, with politicians trying to push through legislation before they lose power, or a time of gridlock as everyone looks ahead to the next chapter.

For the Appropriations Committee, the lame duck session is often crucial. They're responsible for funding the government, and if they don't pass spending bills, we could be looking at a government shutdown. Here's what might be on their plate:

- **Unfinished Business: Any appropriations bills that haven't been passed before the election will be top priority. Expect some late-night negotiations and maybe even a few omnibus bills (those massive packages that combine multiple spending bills into one).**
- **Continuing Resolutions: If they can't agree on full spending bills, they might resort to continuing resolutions (CRs), which keep the government funded at current levels for a short period. A temporary fix, but it can avert a shutdown.**
- **Political Horse-Trading: Lame duck sessions are notorious for deal-making. Politicians might try to attach pet projects or controversial riders to must-pass spending bills.**
- **Looking Ahead: The outgoing committee members will be mindful of the incoming majority. They might try to influence spending priorities for the next Congress, or leave some "gifts" (or headaches) for their successors.**

It's going to be a fascinating session to watch. We'll need to keep a close eye on the news and the committee's activities to see how it all unfolds. Any particular aspects of the lame duck session that intrigue you?